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affairs of the Long Parliament is also given by the entry of sums of money paid to various members in the endeavor to secure favorable action by Parliament. In general the company was regarded as a Royalist institution. Its artillery was in demand and it suffered at the hands of the Parliamentary party; but in truth its most serious financial difficulties arose largely from the plunderings of the gang of "grafters" who won the ear of King Charles. The story of the famous pepper bargain, however, does not apparently reflect as much discredit upon Charles as some have imagined. The documents are here published (*cf.* also Foster in *Eng. Hist. Rev.*, July, 1904).

Students will await with interest the publication of the next installment of the minutes, for that may touch on the story of Cromwell's interest in the affairs of the company. In any case the present volume is an important contribution to the history of chartered companies in the seventeenth century.

ALFRED L. P. DENNIS.

*The House of Lords during the Civil War.* By CHARLES HARDING FIRTH, M.A., Regius Professor of Modern History in the University of Oxford. (London and New York: Longmans, Green, and Company. 1910. Pp. xii, 309.)

WITH all the timeliness and far more than the weight of an ordinary political pamphlet Professor Firth's admirable monograph appeared in time to leaven the mass of election literature with its careful and scholarly historical analogies, and it is likely to be the most permanent literary result of the recent contest. It is, indeed, not wholly new, and it is modestly misnamed. A good deal of its content has already appeared in Professor Firth's previous work, and it is obvious that, though he has, of course, gone over the material himself, brought forward new evidence, and shed new light on many parts of the controversy he details, the present study owes much to Gardiner. For it is, in effect, the history not of the House of Lords during the Civil War but during the entire period from the accession of James I. through the first year of Charles II., 1603 to 1661. The first three chapters bring us to 1642, the next four to 1653, and the last chapter (ix.) is devoted wholly to the years 1660-1661. For the purposes of the present controversy in English politics, without doubt the most important parts of the volume are those covering the period between 1640 and 1649 when "every kind of expedient was tried or discussed in order to make the policy of the Upper House conform to that of the Lower—coercion and purgation of the Upper House, restriction of the power of the Crown to create new peers, amalgamation of the two Houses, limitation or abolition of the veto of the Lords, and finally the abolition of the House itself." Next to these in contemporary interest will be those chapters which Professor Firth describes in a pithy and, perhaps, warning sentence of his preface:

"The next ten years proved the drawbacks of a single chamber government and the difficulty of creating a new Second Chamber." One cannot do better in evaluating the book and the revolution it describes than by following the author's own example of copious quotation. The penultimate paragraph contains the gist of the whole matter and nowhere are the political and constitutional results of the long conflict better summed up in such brief compass. "The initiative permanently transferred from one House to the other, the eyes of the nation permanently fixed upon the deliberations of the House of Commons instead of those of the Lords, these were the results of the civil war and the movement which led up to it. They pointed not to the subordination of one House to the other but to the further differentiation of their functions. Hard experience had convinced Englishmen of the necessity of a second chamber, and our modern English theory of the functions of such an institution had been worked out between 1640 and 1660. Even republicans were converted by events to the bicameral theory." Yet, acclaimed as the book will undoubtedly be by the upholders of the ancient order, strongly as it makes for many of their contentions, full as it is of fact and argument which strengthen their cause, one consideration remains. The England of 1911 is, after all, not the England of the Puritan Revolution, the Lords of the twentieth century are not the Lords of the seventeenth, and historic parallels which ignore profound alterations in the balance of society, classes, and economic conditions are, of all material, the most misleading. Into that error Professor Firth does not fall. No treatment could be more detached and scientific than his. And, whatever use may be made of the weapons he offers so impartially to either side, he has only sought and achieved that high and useful service of the historian to society and politics, the impartial portrayal of the past.

W. C. ABBOTT.

*Lord Chatham: his Early Life and Connections.* By Lord ROSEBERY. (New York and London: Harper and Brothers. 1910. Pp. xii, 481.)

It is now five years since the appearance of von Ruville's exhaustive but unsympathetic biography of William Pitt, and two years since the second centenary of Pitt's birth awakened a new interest, if that were possible, in one who is perhaps the most picturesque and inscrutable figure in modern English history. Should any excuses be needed for presenting a fresh estimate of a famous man at least three may be urged for Lord Rosebery. In the first place, it is highly questionable whether von Ruville with all his pains succeeded in setting before us the real man; secondly, the present writer has had access to new materials and has made use of others not hitherto employed in this connection—notably, Mr. Fortescue's family collection of papers at Dropmore, the papers of Henry Fox at Holland House, a private manuscript written by Pitt's